

City of Baraboo  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
July 13, 2020 – Minutes

**Present:** Roy Franzen, Angela Witzcak, Shelley Mordini, James Francisco, Craig Schlender and Mike Hardy. Also present were Jimmy Kimball (Baraboo Skatepark), Ricarda Adams (BABA), Sandy Perry (Stage III) and Raine Gardener (MSA).

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal posting of the Agenda had been met. Schlender motioned and Francisco seconded approval of the June 22nd minutes. Motion carried.

Witzcak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

**Presentations:** Jimmy Kimball informed the Commission that he had recently completed an application to form a 501c3 non-profit to be able to conduct fundraising for a new skatepark. He said they were targeting a design of a new skatepark of \$100,000-\$200,000 and would like to build in a new, larger location. They will return later to request an MOU with the City for permission to fundraise and assist in design of a new skatepark.

**Public Invited to Speak:** No one wished to speak

**Action Items:**

- a. Discuss and consider Stage III request to reduce rent at Civic Center due to COVID closures: Hardy stated that the Commission would have to make a recommendation to Finance Committee, as this would affect budget and rates set by the City. Sandy Perry presented a request on behalf of Stage III Board of Directors, stating that due to COVID, they have been unable to hold programs or fundraisers and have had difficulty coming up with rent for their rooms. They asked if the City would consider reducing rent for the 2 months the Civic Center was closed due to COVID. Francisco moved to ask the Finance Committee to consider waiving Stage III rent for 2 months, seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.
- b. Discuss and consider request from BABA to sell concessions as well as approved additional games at MRE Park: Hardy stated that due to COVID, there was a slight schedule change for BABA which requires altering their co-sponsor agreement. The agreement did not approve concessions sales at MRE and ended the agreement on July 31, 2020. The Commission needs to consider allowing concessions as well as extending the agreement to allow for August use of the park. Rikki Adams presented a request from BABA to sell concessions out of a trailer at MRE. She stated the trailer would be parked on the parking lot, would only sell pre-packaged items and only one worker would be in the trailer to ensure social distancing. She agreed to pay the 5% required concessions fee. Franzen moved to amend the co-sponsor agreement with BABA to allow for concessions sales of prepackaged items at BABA games as well as extending agreement through August 31, 2020. Seconded by Witzcak. Motion carried.
- c. Discuss and consider future non-binding referendum for construction projects at swimming pool and/or future splashpad: Hardy stated that the City has not gotten very good direction from taxpayers on the future of needed pool improvements, despite holding 2 public input sessions last year. Additionally the splashpad project threatens to take as much as \$500,000 away from donor sources and future maintenance budget and should be considered together with swimming pool needs to avoid competition for funding between the two. Hardy stated a non-binding referendum would give the City feedback on direction taxpayers will support if the

community wants to continue to offer an outdoor swimming pool, which will have limited time left if nothing is done with the outdated facility. Hardy suggested that if a consultant is selected for the splashpad feasibility study, it's possible that the consultant would be able to assist in educating the public before the referendum so we could have an educated voter providing quality feedback on direction of City aquatic programs and facilities. Raine Gardner from MSA noted that while she is not a resident of the City, she is a pool user and recommended Zoom meetings and presentations instead of a referendum as that would allow non residents to voice their opinion as well. Although she understands that City taxpayers would pay for the City pool construction or renovations, neighboring communities might also be willing to place a referendum on their ballots to support the pool. Franzen asked if Hardy wanted a motion. Hardy stated that at this point the intent was discussion only to get some direction on how to best move forward, but that once the feasibility study for the splashpad is done, we can get a better idea if a referendum may be needed. Future discussions will be held as needed.

- d. Discuss and consider 2020-2025 Facility Use Agreement with the Baraboo School District: Hardy stated that the City and School District has enjoyed using each other's facilities for no cost, but never has had a formal agreement in place. In order to protect the priority scheduling of schools using City Facilities and vice versa, as well as ensuring fees would not be charged of either group, Hardy reached out to School District Administrator Mueller and School Activities Director Langkamp to get support for a formal agreement. Both supported the idea, and City Attorney Truman drafted an agreement. Hardy noted that the School Property Committee was meeting to discuss the agreement at the same time, and they had noted the only change they sought was removing the hockey program from the agreement as they sub-lease from the Youth Hockey Association under their lease with the City, so that program should be separate. Hardy stated that once Parks Commission and School Property Committee get an agreement, it would go to School Board and City Council for approval. Franzen recommended approval of the agreement as present with the removal of Hockey and the Pierce Pavilion facility. Seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.
- e. Discuss and consider DBI request to place 4 picnic tables at Courthouse lawn through October for outdoor seating: Franzen moved to approve placing 4 picnic tables on the Courthouse lawn until October 31, 2020. Seconded by Schlender. Motion carried.

**Informational Items:** Staff reported that the dedication of the Riverwalk bridge is July 20 at 4pm and members will receive an invite, however public will not be invited in an effort to keep crowd to under 50. The kayak launch construction has started and will be complete in a few weeks. The Emu exhibit at the zoo is completed and Emus will arrive later this month. Great Sauk State Trail meetings have been moved to Baraboo and Hardy is working with the state to designate a trail corridor in the City. Finally, Sam Kujak accepted a position with the DNR and 69 people applied for his position. Staff is working to narrow it down to 5 or 6 applicants for interviews, with the new Maintenance Technician starting in late August.

June revenues were \$124,791.70 (included \$91,548 ATC grant for the kayak launch and \$12,500 Pierce Park scoreboard sponsorship donations)

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** August 10, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Francisco moved to adjourn, Schlender seconded at 6:37 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director